

Trial of the Grasses

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This fan-fiction article, **Trial of the Grasses**, was written by [Adalwulf of Aedirn](#) and [Witcher190](#). Please do not edit this fiction without the writers' permission.

This article is an expansion based on a canon element. For canon  information on this topic, follow the link to The Witcher Wiki: [Trial of the Grasses](#).

The **Trial of the Grasses**, also known as the **Trial of the Herbs**, was an incredibly painful ordeal to which young witcher apprentices were subjected. It required the consumption of special alchemical ingredients known as "*the grasses*," which affected the physiology of the subjects.

Reportedly, only three in ten boys survived the standard trial. In the case of women, with the experimental mutation formula developed by the [School of the Cat](#), only one in ten survived. In both trials, those who didn't survive died in agony, while those who did gained lightning-quick reflexes, their signature cat-like eyes, and other bodily enhancements. This experimental formula was later perfected by the [Zerrikanian](#) mage [Nasira Faizan](#) by the year the Second Conjunction of the Spheres occurred, 1358.

The standard Decoction of the Grasses, a potion combination used to make the humanoid body magically malleable for witcherfication, consists of administering Mother's Tears, Wildrye Juice, and Speargrass Sap into the veins. These potions are made with ingredients such as a forktail's spinal fluid, a manticore's poison gland, the tongue of an albino bruxae, and the relatively easier-to-obtain herbs of bryonia, ribleaf, and mandrake.

The experimental mutation formula developed by the School of the Cat for mutating women for its part was more complex and volatile. It required

additional rare and potent components to compensate for the physiological differences in women. These included griffin's marrow, extracted from the bone marrow of a griffin, believed to enhance bone density and strength; basilisk blood, used to induce rapid cellular regeneration and adaptation; erynia feather, ground into a fine powder to boost sensory enhancements; and vermilion rose petals, believed to balance the more aggressive ingredients and provide a stabilizing effect that increased the chances of survival to the already mentioned one of ten.

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Notable Variants of the Trial of the Grasses across the Witcher Schools

School of the Cat

Due to being in origin considered failed witchers, the [School of the Cat](#), during its time in Stygga, pursued further experimentation with mutagens during the Trial of the Grasses to dull emotions, believing that suppressing emotions would make witchers more efficient and less susceptible to fear, doubt, or remorse. However, this approach often led to erratic behavior and heightened emotions among its members when the experimentation backfired, resulting in a corrupted version of the original formula. When the school was refounded in the [Dyn Marv Caravan](#), this corrupted formula became the new standard.

To increase their numbers more rapidly, when they were still on Stygga, the

mages of the School of the Cat continued their experimentation and developed a formula to mutate women. Despite their efforts to improve it, the survival rate remained low, with only one in ten women surviving the process.

School of the Chameleon

The School of the Chameleon developed a unique mutagen as a secondary effect of their version of the Trial of the Grasses. This mutagen allowed their witchers to become odorless and to adapt their body temperature to their surroundings for a limited time. However, this unique ability came with a drawback: their mutagenic powers became unusable after casting the Igni Sign.

School of the Crane

The [School of the Crane](#) developed a series of unique mutations to enhance their witchers' abilities, tailored to their specific specializations and combat scenarios. These mutations were designed to improve their performance in both aquatic environments and aerial combat. They used the same Trial of the Grasses as other schools, but their unique mutations instead of being applied during the Trial of the Grasses were applied during their version of the [Trial of the Dreams](#).

School of the Fox

The School of the Fox created a Trial of the Grasses that served as a midpoint between the Wolf and Cat trials, allowing for an emotional range while providing resistance to magical charms and an all-around boost in abilities. Additionally, the School offered a voluntary genetic treatment, unique among the witcher schools, intended to address any shortcomings found in their initial mutations, such as emotional range and disposition.

School of the Griffin

The [School of the Griffin](#) is the only school that still possesses the original formula created by Alzur and Cosimo Malaspina. It survived the avalanche that almost destroyed the school because it was sheltered in a basement at great depth.

School of the Rhino

The [School of the Rhino](#) version of the Trial of the Grasses made its witchers slower than the common witcher (instead of being ten times faster than an average man, they are five times faster) as a secondary effect. However, this trade-off was compensated by a much more resistant dermal layer and superior regenerative capabilities compared to those of other witchers.

School of the Siren

The School of the Siren, a female-only school established in the [Far North](#) by female members of the School of the Cat, experimented with the same mutation formula for women created by the School of the Cat. However, the experimental nature of the original formula, combined with the high costs of their attempts to improve it and other unforeseen challenges, proved too great. Consequently, the school had a brief existence before becoming extinct. Thus, their version of the Trial of the Grasses employed the same base formula for women but included additional modifications. This adaptation granted the Siren witchers the signature cat-like eyes, longevity, and sterility, but resulted in significantly weaker physical strength, endurance, and speed compared to their male counterparts.

As a trade-off, Siren witchers became much more agile and flexible, likely due to their natural body structure. They also developed superior vision across a broader color spectrum and significantly sharper hearing. These enhancements greatly improved their perception and tracking abilities.

School of the Wolf

The [School of the Wolf](#) utilized a formula that was very similar to the original one developed by Alzur and Cosimo Malaspina. However, they made several refinements over the centuries, including adjustments to quantities and concentrations, to better suit their specific training and combat requirements.

Trivia

- The table in [Kaer Morhen](#) used for the Trial of the Grasses is named by [Vesemir](#) "*Sad Albert*".
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